

one or two instances were about one-fourth the amount of the calculations made by respectable and moderate men. The evil does not rest here, for the person offering a high price labours under the stigma of being an exorbitant and extravagant person to intrust works in his hands. I believe your journal is the only medium through which such an arrangement could be brought about. I therefore trust the matter will not rest here, but that some of your correspondents may aid me in calling the attention of the trade generally to this all-important arrangement.

Should you favour us with some remarks on the matter, you will have the thanks and good wishes of many on the success of your endeavours. This matter must be kept alive, and it remains for you, Sir, to effect very much good to the public by so doing.

A LOVER OF FAIR PLAY.

August 6th, 1844.

THE HARDY TESTIMONIAL.

SIR,—In answer to an inquiry in *THE BUILDER* of August 3rd, respecting the Hardy Memorial, I beg to say that the committee have selected a design from one of those forwarded by amateurs; and have awarded the premiums of £5. each to Mr. T. Glegg, architect, Chatham, and Mr. Henry Barnes, architect, Dorchester, to signify their approval of designs sent by those gentlemen.

Z. Y.

Miscellaneous.

DESTRUCTION OF BLAMPFAYNE-HOUSE.

This mansion, the seat of Sir Edward Marwood Eton, situated at Colyton, being a few miles from Exeter, and one of the most antique structures in that part of the country, has been totally burnt down. Its ancient construction and picturesque situation formed a very great attraction in the county, it having been erected in the reign of Queen Elizabeth by Mr. Thomas Marwood, one of Sir Edward's ancestors. The mansion was of considerable extent. The fire broke out last Wednesday, and it was supposed that from age, the brick-work of the roof had in some way parted, and formed a cavity under the rafters, where the soot collected, and the flue of one of the chimneys taking fire, soon communicated to the mass, for the upper part of the building was in flames before the alarm was given, and the domestics encountered some difficulty in preserving themselves. Every endeavour was made to check the entire demolition of this interesting edifice, but all was of no avail, and within an hour after the discovery, the building, with all its ancient relics, was reduced to ruins.

CALEDONIAN CANAL.—The repairs on the canal are proceeding rapidly. The number of workmen employed is estimated at 1,200. At Benavie several of the locks have to be wholly renewed. The pressure of the waters of Loch Lechy will also be rendered less dangerous by the construction of a new lock at Gairloch. The late drought reduced the waters of Loch Oich to a lower level than was ever remembered, affording facilities for removing, in the course of the channel through the lake, some hundreds of trees, consisting chiefly of the finest black oak—some of the blocks 3½ feet in diameter, and other logs 25 to 30 feet in length. They must have lain in their watery beds for centuries.—*Times*.

THE FITZWALTER BARONY.—Sir Brook William Bridges, of Goodnestone Park, has succeeded to the ancient and honourable titles of the house of Fitzwalter. The title was granted to the ancestors of the present noble lord by Edward I. whose reign commenced in 1272. Lord Fitzwalter has lately been making extensive alterations at his princely seat at Goodnestone, and the whole pile is undergoing reparation and improvement. His lordship has renovated the parish church, and beautified the interior with coloured and painted glass windows, new seats, &c. &c.

OXFORD.—Considerable restorations and repairs are going on at several of the colleges in Oxford, among which Magdalen, Brasenose, and All Souls are the most conspicuously active. At Worcester College additional buildings are in course of erection for the students.

BRITISH MUSEUM.—The King's or Royal Library in the British Museum is undergoing a complete renovation, and not before it was wasted. It was dingy in the extreme, nothing having been done to it since it was first built, some sixteen or seventeen years. As neither this nor the general libraries are open to visitors on the public days, few are aware of the existence of this magnificent room, which is not alluded to in the catalogue. It is by far the most ornamental and most extensive of all the galleries, being 300 feet in length, 41 in breadth, and 30 feet high. The centre compartment is much wider than the other two, for there it expands to a width of 58 feet, owing to which circumstance the perspective acquires a considerable degree of variety, whereas had the room been continued from end to end, without other break or division than that perhaps of columns, although the first impression might, perhaps, have been equally striking, it would quickly have given place to a feeling of monotony. The Corinthian columns of highly-polished granite contribute very much to the architectural character of this noble apartment. All the fittings-up are carefully executed in the very best mode of workmanship. The lofty marble door-cases, with doors of oak and bronze, are not the least remarkable features. The library, which now contains about 80,000 volumes, was collected by George III., and presented to the nation by George IV. The gift was one worthy of a sovereign, and the room is worthy of the splendid collection it contains.—*Times*.

A highly-interesting geological discovery has been lately made at the Pestwyn Iron Works, near Pontypool. While the workmen engaged in one of the mine levels were proceeding with their operations, they encountered a fossil tree of considerable size. It was in an erect position, and perpendicular to the plane of stratification. The circumference at the base, immediately above the point of junction with the roots, is six feet, and from thence it diminishes to four feet, in a height of about five feet.

SALE OF CWM CELYN AND BLAINA IRON WORKS.—This fine mineral property was sold by Mr. White, of Coleford, at the Westgate Hotel, on Wednesday week, for £7,000. The purchaser is Mr. Sindart, of Bath, for self and some of the leading shareholders of the recent company.

TIMBER IN NEW BATHSWICK.—In one week in the early part of last month, it was estimated that upwards of 70,000 tons of squared timber passed Woodstock on the river of St. John. The lumber men had been highly favoured by three or four days successive rains.—*Halifax Morning Post*.

BRICKS GOING TO ENGLAND.—A Philadelphia paper says Mr. George Snyder, a well-known brickmaker, is now completing an order for 30,000 bricks for Mr. Gibbons, a gentleman in London.

The trustees of the British Museum have made great acquisitions at the recent sale of the library of his royal highness the late Duke of Sussex. The number of lots purchased for the library of the British Museum is 1,150.

Workmen are erecting a fence around the Dock Company's ground, on the west side of the Humber Dock Basin, preparatory to the construction of the intended new Western Pier.

The yew tree in Gressford church-yard, Wales, is upwards of 31 feet in circumference. This giant of nature is probably not surpassed in the principality, or indeed, in England.

Public baths, the cost of which is estimated at 1,500*l.*, are about to be erected at Bolton. The land for the purpose has been given by the Earl of Bradford.

Sir M. De la Beche arrived at Merthyr, on Tuesday, to prosecute a government inquiry into the sanitary condition of large towns.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The notice relative to moving "bodily" the gallery of the chapel in the Liverpool-road, Islington, did not arrive in time for us to be able to be present on the occasion; but we shall insert any account of the operation which may be sent to us. The Elizabethan Gate we cannot insert without it be accompanied by sections of its component parts.

Current Prices of Metals.

August 6, 1844.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
COPPER —Brit. Cask, p. ton	83	0	0	84	0	0
Tie	82	0	0	83	0	0
Sheet, p. lb.	0	0	0	0	0	9½
Bottoms ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Old	0	0	0	0	0	8½
South Amer., ton	70	0	0	72	0	0
Foreign Cask ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tie ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
IRON , British	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bars	6	0	0	6	5	0
Rods	0	0	0	7	0	0
Hoops	8	0	0	9	10	0
Sheets	0	0	0	9	0	0
Cargo in Wales, Bars	0	0	0	3	10	0
Pigs No. 1, Wales ..	3	10	0	4	0	0
No. 1, Clyde ..	0	0	0	3	0	0
Russian, cwt	16	0	0	16	10	0
For	0	0	0	0	0	0
Archangel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swedish	9	10	0	10	0	0
Goussier's	0	0	0	0	0	0
LEAD —British, Fig. p. ton	16	10	0	17	0	0
Sheet, milled	0	0	0	17	15	0
Bars	0	0	0	6	0	0
Shot, patent	0	0	0	19	15	0
Rod or Minium ..	0	0	0	21	10	0
White	0	0	0	23	10	0
Litharge	0	0	0	20	0	0
Fig. Spanish	0	0	0	16	10	0
American	0	0	0	0	0	0
STEEL —English	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swedish Kog	0	0	0	16	0	0
Faggot	0	0	0	16	10	0
TIN —In blocks, p. cwt. ...	0	0	0	3	13	0
Ingots	0	0	0	3	13	0
In Bars	0	0	0	3	14	0
Banco	3	4	0	3	5	0
Straits	0	0	0	3	3	0
Peruvian	2	17	0	3	0	0
Plates, p. box, 225 lbs. —						
No. 1. C. 13½ by 10 in.	1	7	6	1	13	0
I. X.	1	13	6	1	19	0
I. XX.	0	0	0	0	0	0
I. XXX.	102	lb.		2	9	0
I. XXXX.	203			2	15	0
No. II. C. 13½ by 9½ in.	105			1	9	0
II. X.	133			1	15	0
III. C. 12½ by 9½ in.	90			1	7	0
III. X.	126			1	13	0
SDC	167			2	13	0
SDX	188			2	19	0
SDXX	209			3	15	0
SDXXX	230			3	11	0
SDXXXX	251			3	17	0
C. 16½ by 12½ in.	98			1	7	0
X. 100 sheets	126			1	13	0
XX	147			2	19	0
XXX	168			1	19	0
XXXX	189			2	11	0
Jaggars, 14 by 10 in.	—			0	0	0
SPELTER —On the spot, ton	0	0	0	21	10	0
Delivery	21	5	0	21	10	0
ZINC , English Sheet	0	0	0	30	0	0
PLAYING ORA	0	0	0	0	0	0
ONSIDER	0	0	0	0	3	0
QUICKSILVER	0	0	0	0	4	6

Tenders.

TENDERS delivered for building Workmen's houses for the New Union Mill Company, in Mill-street, Birmingham.—W. H. Norton, Architect, High-street. July 7.

Warden	£537
Briggs	520
Dodley	465
Line	437

TENDERS for building a New Independent Chapel in Graham-street, Birmingham.—W. H. Norton, Architect, High-street.

Briggs	£2,024
Donnet and Webb	2,001
Henfield	1,845
Turner	1,838
Warden	1,731
Kepp and Davies	1,713
T. Norton	1,700
Williams and Roberts	1,672
Horton	1,620

Williams and Roberts' tender accepted.